In claim 12, line 1, delete "one of claims 4 to 11" and insert --claim 4--.

In claim 13, line 1, delete "one of claims 1-12" and insert --claim 1--.

In claim 18, line 1, delete "to 18".

In claim 19, line 1, delete "one of claims 1-18" and insert -- claim 1--.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 12, 13, 18 and 19.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Applicant respectfully requests that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's primary attorney-of record, Gregory A. Sebald (Reg. No. 33,280), at (612) 336-4728.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903 (612) 332-5300

Dated: March 17, 2000

Gregory A. Sebald Reg. No. 33,280

GAS/sef